

Westhoff, Paul

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of page 1 of the Specification:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a Continuation and claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/319,433 which is a non-provisional and claims priority of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/339,684 entitled "Reverse Gate for Water Jet Propulsion System" and filed December 13, 2001.

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A system and apparatus for constructing a reverse gate for a watercraft is disclosed. The reverse gate is independently rotatable relative to a watercraft and a steering nozzle and includes an outer wall extending between a first and a second end. An opening is formed in the outer wall and forms a first and a second deflector. A first and a second discharge opening are in flow communication with the opening in the outer wall and provide lateral thrust to a watercraft so equipped. A deflector body is located between the first and second deflectors and redirects a flow thereacross in a direction generally perpendicular to a discharge from the steering nozzle.

~~A non-steerable reverse gate having a structure which reverses the lateral flow component when the steering nozzle is turned. The reverse gate produces high reverse and steering thrusts, while requiring low operating loads. The steering response in reverse is the same as an outboard or inboard/outboard. In effect, the transom thrusts to the side that the steering wheel is turned to. The reverse gate has a pair of flow-reversing passages for producing a lateral thrust when the steering nozzle is turned, and a fixed or pivotable central deflector body. The deflector body has three vertical walls connected to a juncture. One vertical wall is straight and extends forward of the juncture. The other vertical walls are curved and extend rearward and laterally outward from the juncture on opposite sides of a plane of symmetry. Each curved vertical wall has a flow deflecting surface which is concave and faces a front opening of the reverse gate. The straight vertical wall splits the incoming flow into two streams, while the flow deflecting surfaces divert portions of the respective streams toward the respective flow reversing passages. Steering in reverse is provided by water which flows around the deflector body and out a discharge opening of the lateral steering passage.~~